

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3194

UNCLAS TUNIS 5365

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TS

SUBJECT: LOS MINERAL DATA TUNISIA 1972

REF: TUNIS 5108

FOLLOWING AMPLIFIES OR CORRECTS INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY
REFTEL IN RESPONSE TO STATE 151291:

1. GAS PRODUCTION: EARLIER FIGURES ON TUNISIAN GAS
PRODUCTION IN USGS PAPER 817 HAVE REPORTED ONLY VERY
SMALL GAS PRODUCTION ON CAP BON AND HAVE OMITTED MUCH
LARGE QUANTITIES PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH CRUDE OIL
OUTPUT AT EL BORMA. MOST OF THIS GAS IS FLARED WITH
EXCEPTION OF ABOUT 500,000 CUBIC METERS A DAY CURRENTLY
SENT BY PIPELINE TO SKHIRA FOR INDUSTRIAL USE AND ELECTRIC
POWER GENERATION. ANNUAL PRODUCTION FIGURES OF GAS FROM
EL BORMA HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY COMPILED. ESTIMATES,
WHICH SHOULD BE ADDED TO CAP BON GAS OUTPUT, IN MILLIONS
OF CUBIC METERS PER DAY AS FOLLOWS: 1967-482; 1968-
642; 1969-788; 1970-978; 1971-1168; 1972-1533.
CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF BORMA FOR 67-72 IS 5591 MILLION
CUBIC METERS.

2. RESERVES: FIGURE OF 15 MILLION METRIC TONS FOR
PROVED RECOVERABLE OIL RESERVES OFFSHORE STILL VALID,
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WHILE ONSHORE RESERVES SHOULD BE REDUCED TO 58 MILLION

METRIC TONS TO REFLECT 1972 PRODUCTION. NEW RESERVOIR STUDY NOW UNDERWAY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INDICATE INCREASE OF PROVED ONSHORE RESERVESS. NO ESTIMATE OF GASS RESERVES AVAILABLE BUT POTENTIAL OIL RESERVES OF 800 MILLION BARRELS FOR WHOLE COUNTRY CITED REFTEL APPEARS REASONABLE.

3. NEW WELLS: OF 19 WELLS DRILLED IN 1972, NINE WERE EXPLORATORY ONSHORE, 4 WERE EXPLORATORY OFFSHORE, AND SIX WERE ONSHORE PRODUCTION WELLS. NO OFFSHORE PRODUCTION WELLS.

4. PRODUCING WELLS: THERE WERE 49 WELLS PRODUCING AT END OF 1972, ALL OFFSHORE, BUT NO NEW ESTIMATES ON THE NUMBER OF WELLS SHUT IN.

5. OFFSHORE LICENSES. THREEE NEW OFFSHORE LICENSES WERE GRANTED IN 1972, BRINGING TOTAL OUTSTANDING OFFSHORE LICENSES TO 12. PART OF MARIN CENTRE ORIENTAL PERMIT (AMOCO/AGIP/CFP) EXTENDS BEYOND 200-METER ISOBATH. ADDITIONAL LICENSE ISSUED TO SHELL/TUNIREX IN 1973 FOR HAMMAMET GRAND FOND PERMIT COVERS AREA LARGELY BEYOND 200-METER LINE.

6. INVESTMENT: COMPREHENSIVE FIGURES ON INVESTMENT FOR OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT NOT AVAILABLE. FIGURE OF \$25 MILLION CITED REFTEL APPEARS TOO LARGE FOR US COMPANIES ALONE AND PROBABLY RELECTES INVESTMENT BY ALL FOREIGN COMPANIES IN 1972.

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